The WOOD-MONGERS *REMONSTRANCE*,

Or,

The *CARMENS Controverſie* rightly ſtated:

Wherein

1. The preſent Juriſdiction and Corporation of the Wood-mongers is vindicated.
2. The Original and Nature of Cars, and Car-rooms, by whom governed and diſpoſed, and upon what terms from time to time manifeſted.
3. The inconveniences attending that erroneous conceit, of accounting them Goods and Chattels, and ſo inheritances; clearly ſet forth.
4. The miſtake concerning Sea-coal ſacks rectified.
5. The Petition and Remonſtrance of the Wood-mongers to the L. Mayor, and Court of Aldermen, and Common Council, with divers expedients for regulation of meaſures, propounded.
6. Divers Reaſons why Sea-coals are at ſo deer a rate, with ſeveral Remedies for the abating their exceſſive Prices.

By *W. L.*

PROV. 11. 29. *and* PROV. 19. 5.

He that troubleth his own houſe ſhall inherit the Wind, and the fool ſhall be ſervant to the wiſe in heart.

A falſe Witneſs ſhall not go unpuniſhed, and he that ſpeaketh lies ſhall not eſcape.

LONDON, Printed in the Yeer, MDCXLIX.

To the Worshipful,

Master SAMUEL GARLAND,
Chair-man to the Honorable Committee of Parliament sitting in the Checker chamber at *Westminster*. And to the rest of the Worthy Members of the said Committee.

Gentlemen,

THat daylie experience we have of your inclination and earnest endeavors to establish Peace and Righteousness in this Nation, hath emboldned me to present before you the true state of the Controversie now depending between the Car-men and Company of Wood-mongers; not that I doubt in the least, but that although the Cry of the Car-men hath bin very loud, of Oppression, Violence, Injustice, &c. from the Wood-monger, yet when you descend into their Answer, there will be nothing of that Nature justly to be charged upon them: Nevertheless, for that you are strangers to the cause of this Contest, it being no Law Case, the Counsel on both sides not so well acquainted therewith; And for that in the debate thereof, so many Digressions happen, that the Truth of the matter cannot

beſo eaſily diſcerned, I thought it my Duty (conſidering that Providence hath called you to determine the Cauſe (your time being precious) as much as in me lies, to facilitate the work, by opening the whole Body of the Buſineſs: that ſuch Concluſion may be put to it, as may conduce to Gods glory, and the juſt Rights of the concerned Parties: Which Preſumption may you pleaſe to pardon, I ſhall not onely pray that God may direct you in all your Publike undertakings by his un-erring Spirit, but as from the Begining of your Troubles I have bin ready to contribute both in Perſon and Purſe to your Aſſiſtance, So reſolve (God aſſiſting) ever readily and really to declare my ſelf

Yours,

W. L.

The

The CAR-MENS CONTROVERSIE.

WHen I conſider how often this buſineſs hath bin in debate, how many ſolutions and determinations put to it after Counſel, Learned in the Law on both ſides have bin fully heard: I cannot but wonder at the ignorance and perverſneſs of thoſe, that again preſume to trouble this honorable Committee, whoſe publike and more emergent occaſions require no needleſs obſtructions.

But for as much as they have once more entred the Liſt of this diſpute, and that many ignorant of the ground of this controverſie are ready prejudicately to conceive the Wood-mongers injurious to the Car-men, for ſatisfaction therefore of all men unbyaſſed, I intend (God aſſiſting) to ſtate the matter ſo clearly, that the Complainants themſelves (if rational) may ever hereafter be ſilent. And for that there may nothing of their charge eſcape either un-examined, or un-anſwered, I have anatomized the body of their complaint, and every particular thereof.

The firſt three lines of their paper conſiſts of a general charge againſt the Maſter, Wardens, and Aſſiſtants of the Company of Wood-mongers; *That they by Pretext of ſeveral Charters and Decrees, do aſſume a Power to themſelves over the Car-men, and that thereby they do exceedingly oppreſs them in their Callings, to the utter un-doing of them and their Families.*

Here I would have firſt conſidered that the Wood-mongers and

and Car-men are all one Body equally concerned, in one and the ſame Jurisdiction (as the Car-men themſelves confeſs in the Title of their Complaint) and as there is no power exerciſed by the Wood-monger, but what is real, without pretext, as appears as by their Charter, ſo by Authority of the City of London; Neither aſſume they any other, nor do the Wood mongers, as diſtinct from the Car-men, exerciſe any juriſdiction at all; the Car-men exerciſing as much power over the Wood-mongers, as the Wood-mongers over them; all their actings being joynt in Power, Priviledge, Office, and Trade; many Car-men not only of the Clothing, but of the Aſſiſtance; and divers of them not only have born all the Offices in the Company, but drive the very trade of Wood-mongers. So that what ever charge they lay upon the Wood monger, they muſt likewiſe lay upon themſelves. As for their being oppreſſed and undone by the Wood-monger, when the ſeveral particulars of their charge is examined, there will not appear the leaſt ſhadow of any thing of that nature, but this as ſcandalous as the reſt. I proceed to the two firſt particulars of their charge, *viz.*

1. *That when we have beſtowed three-ſcore or four-ſcore pounds in a Car-room, the Wood-mongers do aſſume to themſelves a power to take away the ſaid room at their pleaſure, notwithſtanding the ſaid Car-room is all the Eſtate moſt of us have to maintain our ſelves and families.*

2. *That when a Car-man dies, the Wood-mongers do aſſume a power to themſelves to take his Car-rooms from his Wife and Children, albeit he bought them with his money but a week before his death; by which means the Wood-mongers have brought many Widows and Fatherleſs children to ruine, inſomuch that ſome have periſhed (as is conceived) for want of bread.*

This both Wood-mongers and Car-men muſt joyntly acknowledge, that according to the power where-with they are entruſted, they do diſpoſe of Car-rooms, as their own proper and peculiar right. If the Car-men, or others, have impoveriſhed themſelves by laying out their money for that which could not be made ſale of, and of which they could have no aſſurance, neither the ſeller having any thing to enable him ſo to do, they muſt thank themſelves: Neither are the Car-men alone liable to this

this loſs, but if any Wood-monger hath bin ſo ignorantly perſwaded out of his money, he pays as well for his learning as the other, and that very deſervedly; as will palpably appear by that time the nature and original of Cars, and Car rooms, with their Government, Diſpoſals, and Determinations from time to time are cleered: They only ſay in effect, they bought a piece of land of one that had no Title to it, and the right Owners took it away.

But as for Cars and Car-men, conſider

1. That Car-men, Cars, and Car-rooms, were anciently (time out of mind) under the Government, and in the diſpoſal of the Lord Mayor, Court of Aldermen, and Common Councel of London; as appears at large by the anſwer of the Wood-mongers given in to this honorable Committee.

2. That a Car-room is nothing but an allowance to work a Car in the City, and Parts adjacing: Which priviledge was ever granted upon the good behavior, and taken away upon the miſdemeanor of the party to whom granted; either for non-payment of duties, ill-language, or other abuſive carriage; as appears by the ancient books of orders, when in the diſpoſal, and under the government of the Hoſpital; which to cleer up to any man whoſe eys are open, I have ſet down theſe enſuing preſidents, *viz.*

March 29. 1585.

John Beck *dwelling in Moor-lane, was admited to be a Car-man, and in the ſame Trade to demean himſelf honeſtly, or elſe to be utterly diſmiſt.*

Thomas Huſon *about the ſame time admited upon the like terms.*

Auguſt 1. 1586.

Robert Taylor *was diſmiſſed from the uſe of a Car, upon complaint, and miſdemeanors towards honeſt Citizens, and for taking exceſſive prices for Carriage.*

May 12. 1688.

Robert Pinchbacks *Car was taken up for his ſervants miſdemeanor, and ordered to take another ſervant in his ſteed, and then to have his Car delivered.*

October

October 24. 1593.

William Turner *for his diſorder and unreverend ſpeeches, had his room cut off.*

Theſe, with many other examples (if need were) conſidered, what ground there can be to conceive them Goods, Chattels, or Inheritances, demyſable by Will to Heirs, Executors, &c. I wonder: Certainly had they purchaſed them from the City, Hoſpital, or Company of Wood-mongers, they would have had ſomthing to ſhew for it; But neither the Lord Mayor, Court of Aldermen, Common Councel, or Governors of Chriſts Hoſpital, ever intended that the Poor and Fatherleſs ſhould be deprived of ſo conſiderable a part of their maintenance, to which purpoſe the Wood-mongers ever ſince the Government and diſpoſal was transferred to them, have payed one hundred and fifty pounds *per Annum* to the Hoſpital aforeſaid.

Nevertheleſs by reaſon divers Car-men, and others, did preſume out of an erroneous conceit, as appears by the City Certificate, to account the Car-rooms as Goods and Chattels, and did by private contracts, paſs them over one to another, contrary to the conſent, privity, or approbation of the City, or any ſubordinate Power entruſted with the diſpoſal of them, and for that they payed conſiderable ſums of money for them, it was ordered ſome yeers ſince, that the widow of ſuch Car-man, Wood-monger, or other that had ſo diſburſed his money, ſhould enjoy the benefit of ſuch room or rooms, during her natural life, unleſs ſhe married afterward a Forreigner, and then to determine: which favor they have enjoyed ever ſince the 21 of King *James* to this day. And although divers have demiſed them by Will to their children, &c. and put them into their Inventories, yet this gives them no Title or Eſtate at all in them, more then if I ſhould demiſe another mans Eſtate, and put it in my Inventory, would benefit thoſe to whom demiſed, neither is it at all ſtrange that they are either demiſed by Will, or put into Inventories; for he that had no more wiſdom then to lay out his money for a ſhadow, might as eaſily, as ignorantly place it in his Inventory.

Now if any ſhall ask how the Company of Wood-mongers came by power to govern and diſpoſe of Cars and Car-rooms, I ſhall give a perfect account of it, as followeth.

First,

Firſt, as I told you formerly, that time out of mind they were in the power and diſpoſal of the Lord Mayor, and Court of Aldermen.

Secondly, In the two and twentieth of Queen *Eliſabeth* this Government was transferred to the Society of Wood-mongers.

Thirdly the twenty eighth of her Reigne the Government was transferred unto the Governors of Chriſts Hoſpital, for the benefit of the Fatherleſs Children, and ſtill (as before) given and taken away upon good or bad demeanor, and none enjoying them longer then life.

Fourthly, The third of King *James* both Car-men and Wood-mongers were incorporated; and the Governors of the Hoſpital wearied out with the rude behaviors of the Car-men, and the Car-men likewiſe, neither content to be governed by them, nor able to govern themſelves, as they themſelves confeſſed, when they petitioned to be incorporate with the Wood-mongers; hereupon the City tranſmitted the Government and Diſpoſal of Cars, Car-men, and Car-rooms to the Company of Wood-mongers; in conſideration whereof, they engaged to pay the hundred and fifty pounds *per annum* aforeſaid, to the Hoſpital of Chriſts-Church, which they have paid ever ſince.

Fiftly; The ſixteenth of King *James* upon a petition to his Majeſty, and a reference thereupon to the Lord Mayor, and Court of Aldermen, the number of Cars were proportioned to be four hundred in all, whereof two hundred and ſixty were ordered for the ſtreets, and one hundred and forty for the Wharfs: and the Wood-mongers have bin ſo favorable, as to permit the Car-men to work two hundred and eighty Cars, and content themſelves with twenty leſs than their proportion.

Sixtly, That the eighteenth of King *Charles* at the begining of this preſent Parliament, a Petition was preſented by the Car-men about this very buſineſs, which was referred to divers Aldermen of London, and the City Councel, and it was then cleerly reſolved by the ſaid Aldermen, That the ſaid Car-rooms did, and ought to determine with the life of the Poſſeſſor, that the buying and ſelling of Car-rooms was out of an erroneous conceit, and that of right they were tranſferred, and thought

fit to be governed and diſpoſed of by the Company of Wood-mongers, as by the report and Certificate of the ſaid Referrers, more at large appeareth; which I have here alſo given you a true Copie of, that none may be unſatisfied.

Martis decimo ſexto die Aprilis, 1643. *An. Reg. Car.* 18.

THis day Sir *Edmund Wright* Knight and Alderman, M. Alderman *Atkins*, M. Alderman *Adams*, M. Alderman *Reynardſon*, M. Alderman *Gibbs*, M. Serjant *Pheaſant*, and M. Serjant *Green* Committees formerly appointed to hear and examine the differences between the Company of Wood-mongers Complainants, and ſeveral Car-men of London Defendents, did deliver into this Court a report in writing, under their hands, how they find the ſame, and their opinions; The tenor whereof is as followeth, *viz.*

To the Right Honorable, the Lord Maior of the City of *LONDON.*

According to the direction of an Order of this Honorable Court unto us directed, dated ſept. die Mart. 1642. *for the hearing and examining the differences between the Company of Wood-mongers Complainants, and ſeveral Car-men of London Defendents; We do certifie, that We having heard the matters debated between them at large, by their ſeveral Councels on both ſides do find, That the government of Cars and Car-men, was anciently in the City of London, and diſpoſeable by the Lord Maior and Court of Aldermen.*

We do find that about ſixty yeers ſince, theſe Cars and Car-rooms, and the Government thereof was transferred by the Lord Maior and Court of Aldermen, to the Company of Wood-mongers, being then a Fraternity, and no otherwiſe incorporate; and that about the 28. *of* Eliſabeth, *they were tranſlated to the Governors of Chriſts Hoſpital, who had power and order to diſpoſe of theſe places.*

We do likewiſe find, that in the third of King James, *the Wood-*

Wood-mongers and Car-men were incorporated by Charter, and that the Car-men were then again transferred over to the Government of the Company of Wood-mongers, they paying to Chriſts Hoſpital one hundred and fifty pounds per annum. *And we find that whiles the Government was in the Hoſpital, and ſince the Government was in the Company of Wood-mongers, that divers of the Poſſeſſors of thoſe Rooms,* de facto, *ſell, alien, and diſpoſe of their Cars for valuable conſiderations, and ſome of them did take upon them by their laſt Wills, to demiſe the ſame to their relicks, children, executors, and others; and ſome of them were inſerted into ſome Inventories of the deceaſed, as Aſſeſts.*

And we find, that ſeveral differences ariſing by the Wood-mongers and Wharffingers concerning Cars, and the Wharffingers petitioning His Majeſty 16. Jac. *His Majeſty then referred the ſame to the then Lord Biſhop of London, Sir* Julius Cæſar *and others, who taking conſideration thereof, referred the ſame differences to the Lord Maior, Aldermen, and Common Councel of London, who upon due examination thereof, made their Certificate about April* 1623. *unto the Lords Referrees, wherein they thought fit that the number of Cars ſhould be ſtinted to four hundred only in London, Southwark, S. Katharins, and places Adjacent, whereof one hundred and forty to be for the Wharfs, and two hundred and ſixty for the Streets, and that there ſhould be ſixteen braſen rooms above the number of four hundred for the Carriage of His Majeſties Wines; and certified amongſt other things, that when any one dyeth that is owner of any Car-room, or Car-rooms, the ſame Car-room, or Car-rooms ſhall not be held as an Inheritance, nor be accounted as the Goods and Chattels of the Executors, but ſhall be within fourteen days diſpoſed of by the Maſter, Wardens, and Aſſiſtants of the Company of Wood-mongers, firſt unto the Wharffs, until the number of one hundred and forty be full, and after to ſuch Car-men as have ſerved their Apprentiſhip, and are fitteſt men for the ſame, they paying twenty ſhillings admittance and ſeventeen ſhillings four pence* per Annum *for a Car-room. Nevertheleſs, in regard many out of an erroneous conceit, (as they the ſaid Referrees take it) had diſburſed great ſums of money for their Car-rooms, ſuppoſing that they might diſpoſe in perpetuity at their pleaſures, therefore they did make this proviſi-*

on for them; That the Widow of the then Owner of any Car-room, or Car-rooms, ſhould enjoy them by her ſervants during her life, unleſs ſhe married a Forreigner, and then to be determined. *Which Certificate containing (amongſt other things) the particulars aforeſaid, the Lords Committees did certifie unto the Court of Star Chamber, where ſome Orders were made to ratifie and eſtabliſh the ſame about Febr.* 22. Jac. *upon which ſaid Certificate and Decree, We do find that ſeveral of the Aldermen of London did aſſiſt the Maſter, Wardens, and Aſſiſtants of the Company of Wood-mongers, in* Anno 1625. *and* 1626. *for the better putting the ſame in execution.*

And we do likewiſe find, that the Parties to us referred, upon the complaint of the Company of Wood-mongers, do work with Cars, contrary to the ſaid Certificate, Decree, and Orders preſcribed, as aforeſaid; and that they who do now ſo work, are above the number of one hundred limitted. But we do not find any Cuſtom of London to enable any ſuch claim, to hold Cars as an Inheritance, or to demiſe or diſpoſe the ſame by their laſt Wills, or otherwiſe; But we think that to be fit, and very juſt, that the ſaid Car-rooms ſhould be continued and kept, to the ſaid number of four hundred, and under the ſaid Government, according to the ſaid Certificate and Decree, and that the over-number ſhould be reſtrained; All which we leave to the judgement of this honorable Court.

Edm. Wright, Abrah. Reynardſon,
Thom. Atkin. Will. Gibbs.
Thom. Adams, Peter Pheaſant.
John Green.

The which Report being here openly read, was allowed of, and ordered to be entred into the Reportory, and to be in all things accordingly performed.

Ex. & concord. cum Regiſtro.
Michel.

The third particular of their charge is, *That the Wood-mongers do aſſume to themſelves to let the ſeveral Car-rooms taken from Widows and Orphans to hire for three ſhillings a week, either to them from whom they take them, or to ſome others, and do give no account of the money; and do alſo raiſe ſeventeen ſhillings four pence*

pence per Annum *for every Car-room in the City, which amounts to the value of nigh four hundred pounds* per Annum *for which monies they have not given an account for many years.*

That the Wood-mongers do let any Car-room at hire for three ſhillings a week, or any other price, is utterly falſe; Its true when the Poſſeſſor grows aged, impotent, or incapable to work, upon petition and ſuit made by the Poſſeſſor, leave is granted to ſuch a one to let it to another; by which means, the Aged, the Widow, and Impotent, receive a good part of their maintenance, and the poorer ſort of Car-men able to work, obtains a livelyhood; but this ſtill for the particular benefit of the Car-men themſelves, the Company of Wood-mongers not receiving one peny advantage by it.

But its very true that the Company do receive ſeventeen ſhillings four pence *per Annum* rent for every Car-room, which is allowed, allotted, and approved by the City; from whom they receive their power, and who likewiſe reap the benefit, the Company being onely Tenants to the City, and in conſideration hereof, pay them to the uſe of the poor and fatherleſs children of the Hoſpital, the hundred fifty pounds *per Annum* aforeſaid: As for making no account of the monies, its as palpable an untruth as any other their charge, for they annually render an account to thoſe capable of it, as in other Corporations; neither is it either equitable or poſſible to render account to every individual member, no more then for a Church-warden to render account to every particular Inhabitant. The premiſes conſidered, the account of four hundred pounds *per Annum* (if it were ſo) may be eaſily made up, by that time the Hoſpital is paid one hundred and fifty pounds, the Clerk and Beadles wages, and the Hall rent paid, beſides at leaſt four hundred pounds laid out upon it, one hundred pounds *per Annum* for uſe money, taken up for Parliamentary occaſions, together with monethly Aſſeſſments, which if men of underſtanding conſider, there will be very little left to ſpend in feaſting, this being the only revenue of the Company; which brings me to the fourth particular of their charge.

That the Wood mongers are careleſs of the poor of their Company, and do not huſband their money well, for the uſe of the poor,

but

but ſpend it in feaſting among themſelves, and ſuffer the poor of their Company to periſh for want of Stock to ſupply their neceſſities, as other Companies have, yet nevertheleſs the Maſter, Wardens and Aſſiſtants of the ſaid Company, do (by an Arbytrarie Power aſſumed to themſelves) Tax the Petitioners to pay twenty ſhillings for every Car-room, when, and as often as they pleaſe, and if we refuſe to pay the ſaid illegal Tax, they will cut out our Car-rooms, and ſo deprive us of our livelyhood, and refuſe to give any account of this money alſo.

Beſides what hath bin ſaid in the cloſe of the laſt particular, *viz.* How little money will be left for feaſting, the neceſſary diſburſements of the Company conſidered; I ſhall firſt ſay, That the Car-men are as guilty of this, and every part of each ſeveral part of the Petition, as the Wood-monger, if any guilt at all were: but to paſs that, Its very true the Company in a Civil and moderate way on quarter days, and the like, when the affairs of the Company calls for their attendance, dine ordinarily at their Hall, as no doubt but other Companies do; avoiding (eſpecially in theſe times) whatſoever may be accounted ſuperfluous: And truly the Car-men have as little cauſe to complain of this as any men, for as they are (the better ſort of them) of the Aſſiſtance, and ſo neceſſarily at the one Table, ſo the pooreſt Car-man that comes thither upon any buſineſs, goes not away without his dinner; The Wood-monger they cannot ſay feaſts himſelf, neither eats he his morſel alone; neither can any rational man believe that the Wood-monger, who are Tradeſ-men, and for the generality, of better quality then their accuſers, moſt of them having what they have in the World, by their own Induſtry, that they ſhould now fetch rules of good husbandry from ſuch a profuſe generation of men, who for the major part (get they little or much) make even at weeks end; certainly little, good Doctrine can be expected when the divel turns Divine. As for the care of the poor, I preſume there's no Company in the City (having ſo ſmall revenues) do more cheerfully and liberally provide; and had not the Company the government and diſpoſal of the Car-rooms, for one, there would be ten poor Car-men in and about the City, not able to get their bread.

First

Firſt, For that great noiſe they make of an Arbytrarie Tax of twenty ſhillings a Car-room; I ſay it is not when the Company pleaſes, but when they are compelled to do it for the neceſſary ſupply of the State.

Secondly, There is no Tax laid upon the Car-men, but what the Car-men lay upon themſelves; no Aſſeſment being made but by a competent number of the Aſſiſtants of both, and laid as well upon the Wood-monger as Car-man.

Thirdly, Thoſe that are free of the Company (driving what Trade ſoever) although they have no Car-rooms at all, yet pays his due proportion as well as thoſe that have.

Fourthly, This twenty ſhillings lately laid upon each Car-room, is onely to pay a debt of the Company, contracted for Parliament, money meerly taken up at Intereſt upon the Hall Seal, wherein every member of the Company is in his proportion, and according to the number of Cars he employs, concerned; The Creditor calling in for his money, and having paid Intereſt ſome yeers, they are willing to eaſe that burden; and were it not out of their diſ-affection to the State, they would never call this an oppreſſion or illegal Tax, eſpecially ſo ſeldom troubled this way, to my knowledge not above thrice ſince this Parliaments firſt ſitting; and likewiſe being lent upon the Engagement of the Company, of re-payment when the Parliament enables them; every Wood-monger and Car-man upon payment of the ſaid twenty ſhillings having printed recipts given him for that purpoſe.

As for account, I anſwer as formerly, if this be not ſufficient, they cannot account to every one.

The ſixt particular of their charge.

That the Maſter, Wardens. and Aſſiſtants, nor any Wood-monger whatſoever, ought to keep any Cars, or to have any Car-rooms; yet nevertheleſs they have got moſt of the Car-rooms into their own hands, and do diſpoſe of them; ſome they give one to another, and ſome they give to their ſervants and friends; and by this means deſtroy us and our families.

For Anſwer, I ſay firſt,

That the Maſter now in being hath none.

Secondly, That when a Car-man is Maſter, as ſometime it is,

they

they will be of another opinion; or by the ſame reaſon they muſt be taken away from all thoſe Car-men that are of the Aſſiſtance.

Thirdly, That the Wood-monger ought to have none, is an untruth of as high a magnitude as the reſt; Certainly they forget that the VVood-mongers proportion is appointed them, *viz.* one hundred and forty to the VVharfs, as alſo that the number for the ſtreets is appointed them, *viz.* two hundred and ſixty; but if none of this were, I am ſure it were no breach of *Magna Charta* for any man to carry his own goods, and aſk the Car-men no leave, which the City well knew when they ordered the VVood-mongers their proportion.

Fourthly, For giving one to another, its very true; for as VVood-mongers and Car-men are a joynt body, they cannot give any at all but it muſt be to one another, unleſs they ſhould give them to Forreigners, or to men free of other Companies; But can they ſay the VVood-mongers have taken away any of their proportion or work, more then their own number? Although it were no robbery at all for the Wood-monger to work as many as his occaſions call for, for ought I know, and that either as a free Engliſhman, or Citizen of London, by vertue of *Magna Charta*: But being very tender of any thing that is oppoſite to Order and Government, they are content with their number allowed and appointed by the City.

And whereas they unjuſtly affirm the Wood-mongers do hereby deſtroy them and their families, I am able to make it good, that not one of ten of theſe men that thus complain had bin able to live, had not the Wood-monger beſtowed Car-rooms of them; ſuch who never would have bin able to purchaſe a room while they lived; Neither indeed (according to propriety of ſpeech) can they be ſaid to be taken from them, unleſs they had a right to them; neither is it indeed the Company of Wood-mongers diſpoſe of them, otherwiſe then as Tenants to the City, to whom property they do, and have belonged, *ab origine.*

The ſeventh Article.

1. *That the Wood-mongers do aſſume a power to themſelves to carry merchants goods in their Cars, contrary to the Cuſtom of the*

the City, and thereby we are deprived of our labor, and they eat the bread out of our mouths.

Firſt, I wonder why theſe Complainants now will urge a Cuſtom of the City, when the whole drift of their contention is ſo directly oppoſite to the City Cuſtom, nay to the City peculiar Right.

Secondly, Why did they not ſay againſt the Common Law, the Wood-mongers carry Merchants goods in their Cars? Certainly if *Magna Charta* be not ſtone dead, it will tell theſe men, *That a man may not onely carry his own goods, but any goods coming to his own Wharf*; it ſays no ſuch bondage upon men as theſe Complainants would, *viz.* That a man ſhall pay ſixty or ſeventy pounds *per Annum*, or more for his Wharf, and keep horſes and ſervants to the charge of two or three hundred pounds *per Annum* more, that theſe ſhall all look on, and eat their maſter out of houſe and home, while the ſtreet Cart ſhall reap the benefit; and yet I believe for one load the Wood-monger carry of Merchants goods, the Town Carts carry an hundred of the Wood-mongers.

Thirdly, The Wood-mongers very rarely carry Merchants goods, although they be brought to their own VVharfs.

1. For that its very ſeldom any ſuch goods do come to them, many other VVarfs being employed onely for that purpoſe.

2. For that the VVood-mongers ordinarily have ſuch employment in their own goods, that they do call in the Town Car-men to take part of their carriage, who are many of them oftentimes hardly entreated to do them help in their greateſt haſt, and that by reaſon the rates of the carriages from the VVood-monger is ſo well known, that they cannot ſo eaſily abuſe him, in taking as much more for his carriage as the City allows, as oftentimes they do of Merchants and others, to the great abuſe of the whole City; and certainly, if they wanted bread, they would be more eaſily entreated to earn money.

Fourthly, Give me leave to tell them, that had not the Wood-monger goods of his own to carry, he ought, he might, he would carry any other goods coming to his own VVharf; and not onely as he is a free-born Engliſhman, but even according to the Order of the Corporation, made both by VVood-mongers

and Carmen joyntly. And although the Companies tenderneſs to the Car-men have bin ſuch (as they well know) that they are more apt to puniſh the VVharffinger and VVood-monger for carrying the Merchants goods coming to their own VVharfs, then to countenance it, though never ſo ſeldom; yet that they may not ſmother their own Order in this very buſineſs, I have here inſerted it *verbatim*, together with the names of thoſe Gentlemen of the Aſſiſtance by whom, and when made.

On the 26. of October in the fift of the late King, amongſt other things in difference between the VVharffingers, VVood-mongers, and Car-men, this very buſineſs was determined, as appears by the laſt clauſe of that Agreement, regiſtred in the Hall book, with an order of confirmation thereupon; which clauſe runs thus, *viz. Further, theſe parties do think it fit on both ſides, that what goods or proviſions come to or neer the City of London, and by occaſion do come to any of theſe Wood wharfs within London, or without; that in ſuch caſe the ſaid Wharffingers may with the Cars (being of the number of one hundred forty, and branded with the Faggot mark) carry the ſame goods into any place of London, or without, at ſuch prices as are or may be rated and aſſeſſed by the City of London within the Liberties, and his Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace without.* All which we conceive is not contrary to the Decree aforeſaid, but is reaſonable, theſe Carts paying the ſame rent to the Hoſpital, and doing the like equal and proportional ſervice to his Majeſty, as the other number of two hundred and ſixty ſtreet Cars do; and beſides is no occaſion of ſloping and peſtring the ſtreets, as alſo a thing that doth further the common profit of the City, in the ſpeedy conveyance of victuals and other proviſions into the Markets.

Which part of the Agreement, with all the reſt of the particulars, was allowed and confirmed, not onely by the VVood-mongers and Carmen in difference, but by an Order dated Dec. 23. 1629. and by the way take notice, that the Court by whom this enſuing Order was made, were moſt Car-men, not above three Wood-mongers preſent; as appears by their hands thereto ſubſcribed.

At

At a Court holden at Wood-mongers Hall the three and twentieth of December, 1629.

THis day all the ſeveral Agreements made the 26. day of October laſt, betweene the Maſter and Wardens of this Company, and the Wharffingers, and ſubſcribed under their hands, was publikely read in Court, and the Court was thereupon demanded by our Maſter, their conſents and opinions therein; which the Table underſtand to be both good, wholeſom, and profitable; and likewiſe much affecting the quietneſs of this Fellowſhip hereafter, have (with a full conſent) ordered the ſame to ſtand in force in all particulars whatſoever, and this Order to be the Maſter, and Wardens, and the other undertakers thereof, their full diſcharge in that behalf: In Witneſs whereof, We the ſaid Maſter, Wardens, and Aſſiſtants, have ſet our hands the day and yeer above written.

Samuel Doves, *Maſter.*
1. William Ham,
2. Thomas Wilmot, *Wardens,*
3. George Heal, 6. John Lightborne.
4. Henry VVilliams, John Cutler.
5. Geo. Thornton, 7. George Hubbert.
8. Stephen Cox.

Which Order was again read and confirmed at another Court of Aſſiſtants, bearing date the 12 *day of* January 1629. *then next following.*

Now before I come to the eighth and ninth particulars of their charge, I ſhall ſpeak a word or two to the inconveniences attending that corrupt conceit (as the City certificate truly ſaith) of ſelling Car-rooms one to another by private contract; which liberty being denyed them, they cry out of oppreſſion, violence, injuſtice, un-doing, &c. which well examined, will appear a buſineſs of a cleer contrary nature; For beſides the illegality of ſuch prepoſterous and prejudicial proceeds, as appears by what hath bin ſaid,

Firſt, They aſſume to themſelves a power to abuſe the City, who having either by the Governors of the Hoſpital, or by the Company of VVood-mongers, beſtowed the priviledge upon a Car-man to work a Cart his life time, if he demean himſelf honeſtly; he taking upon him to ſell it as his peculiar inheritance, muſt needs ſteal away the right of the City in them, turning that to their private advantage, which inherently is peculiar to the City, and in their power to take away, or give at pleaſure, when, and where, and to whom they pleaſe.

Secondly, By this means they exceedingly defraud one another, for he that buyes (being perwaded the ſeller hath a ſure Title) is encouraged to lay out his money upon a meer ſhadow, to his utter undoing; for the cauſe of their un-doing is not that the City (and ſo the VVood-mongers from them) claim their right, but that the Complainants fell into a full Trade to coſen one another, ſelling and buying that they never had Title to, nor could make aſſurance of; and it were very juſt for thoſe that took upon them firſt thus to ſell, to be compelled (if extant, and able) to give competent repair to the ſuffering party.

Thirdly, had this corrupt practiſe bin permitted to continue, in a few yeers all the Car-rooms would have bin ingroſſed into a few rich mens hands, who were able to purchaſe them, and all the reſt of the poor Car-men (who although ſerved their time honeſtly, and not able to lay out threeſcore or fourſcore pounds for a room) muſt inevitably be concluded a ſlave or ſervant for life; and here lies couched ſuch an undeſervable undoing to the wives and families of the poorer ſort of Car-men, as (if they had eyes to ſee) they would eat their fleſh before appear in this buſineſs: Poor men, they are pulling down their own houſes upon their heads, and ſee not the danger. And truly, (next to that duty I ow to the City and Company in the vindication of their juſt Rights) this is a grand reaſon of my undertakings, that poor men may not be thus bored through the noſe; I would have any man not *Nebuchadnezzarized* conſider, whether the buying and ſelling for 50, 60, or 70 pounds a room hold not forth more oppreſſion, injuſtice, and undoing to poor Carmen, then the having them for twenty ſhillings admittance, the annual rent not conſiderable, not being the third part of the Intereſt of the price

of

of a Car-room, neither is it more then they paid annually, when they were bought at ſo deer a rate.

Fourthly, Should Car-rooms and Car-men be in their own power, and not ſubordinate to Government; Certainly it would tend much to common prejudice of all Merchants and others in their carriage; for let the Lord Maior, Court of Aldermen, and Company of VVood-mongers do what they can, men are daily abuſed as they now ſtand, how much more if impowered? Certainly he that hath not learned to be governed, will never be fit to be a Governor.

Fiftly, Should not the VVood-mongers have Cars of their own to carry out their goods, it would much encreaſe the price of fewel; for now it often falls out they ſell coals at the price they bought, or for very ſmall profit, which were it not to employ their own horſes and ſervants, they would not do.

Sixtly, Although the laſt, yet not the leaſt, it would prove the greateſt breach of Charity, nay almoſt the higheſt degree of Felony that can be;

For beſides the abuſe and injury offred the City, and that private coſenage that's in it one of another, That undoing that inevitably falls upon the poorer ſort of Car-men as afore-ſaid, The abuſe of Merchants and others in carriage of their goods, The increaſe of the prices of the fewel; this above all other is the greateſt, it deprives the poor and fatherleſs of the hoſpital of Chriſts-Church, of a conſiderable part of their maintenance; and as all kind of theft is illegal, yet its moſt abominable to rob the Spittle.

Therefore while they unjuſtly cry out of injuſtice in others, they themſelves would really become oppreſſive and injurious, and how theſe things can tend to publike good (their great plea) I underſtand not; but a man with half an ey may ſee publike prejudice wrapt up in it to purpoſe.

The eighth particular of their charge.

That the Wood-mongers by keeping Cars to carry abroad wood and coals, &c. do uſe two Trades, to wit, the Trade of a Wood-monger, and the Trade of a Car-man, which is contrary to the Law, and contrary to the Cuſtom of the City; by which means the Gentry as well as others are much abuſed when they buy coals, the Wood-mongers uſing to wet their ſacks that they ſhall not hold their meaſure.

Their

Their ninth particular.

That the Maſter, Wardens, and Aſſiſtants of the Company of Wood-mongers, the better to hold up their oppreſſions and un-reaſonable gain, doth fore-ſtall the Markets of Wood and Coals, and other fuel, by ſending their Factors, or going themſelves fifty or ſixty miles to buy Coals or Wood, &c. before it comes to open Market; and then do exceedingly inhance the price, and ſell for unreaſonable profit; to the great diſturbance of the City and places adjacent, and thereby doth exceedingly oppreſſe the poor, and exact upon them by their unreaſonable raiſing the price of Coals, &c. at their pleaſure.

Theſe two laſt particulars being ſons of one father, and both of one nature, I joyn together, and for anſwer,

Firſt, I ſay, that the Wood-monger and Car-man are not two diſtinct trades, but (as incorporated and free of one Company ſo) partake of priviledges alike: a Carman as often as ability and opportunitie meet, doth not only ſell Wood and Coals, but keepeth a Wharf and ſervants, and drives the Trade of a Wood-monger: and by the ſame reaſon a Wood-monger may work Carrs, eſpecially for goods coming to his own Wharf, and yet not be accounted a man of two Trades more than a Country man bringing his Corn to market in his own Cart, or a Brewer carrying out his own Beer in his Drays. Certainly upon this ground to conclude a Wood-monger and Car-man two Trades, eſpecially as before intereſted alike in all incorporate priviledges, is but lean Logick, and what Law either of the City or Nation prohibits a man the carrying of his own goods, I think their moſt learned councel cannot tell: but that the Common Law, as well as the approbation and Cuſtom of the City in this Caſe (is ſuch) that I can tell; otherwiſe why ſhould they proportion 140 Carts, to the Wharfs, for that very purpoſe.

Secondly, The Complainants are ſeemingly ſenſible of an abuſe offered the Gentry, by the Wood-mongers, as they pretend, wetting their ſacks that they might not hold their meaſure. Truly charitable men would firſt have conſidered the poor, who are moſt pinched, if this were ſo indeed; but that by ſpeaking for the Gentry, they hope to gain their good approbation, willing to inſinuate.

But

But that I may ſpeak more fully to this point of wetting of ſacks, and ſo alſo to take off that prejudice and diſ-repute the complainants would willingly beget upon the Wood-mongers, I further anſwer,

Firſt, That the Wood-mongers as a Company or Corporation (as the Complainants well know) do abhominate any thing of this nature, or any other, tending to publick prejudice, whether it be carrying ſmal ſacks, wetting ſacks with an intent to deceive, fore-ſtalling Markets, &c. And as they have been and are impowered and intruſted by the City to view and over-ſee the meaſures of every man dealing in Wood and Coals: ſo truſtily as often as they ſee fit they go abroad, and from Wharf to Wharf to that purpoſe, and where they find inſufficient meaſures, &c. they ſeize them and puniſh according to demerit; therefore they only charge the Company with this, with an intent to render them unworthy of that power and truſt committed to them, as to this Honorable Committee; that thereby their own ſiniſter ends may be ſerved, ſo alſo that their reputes being wrapt up in theſe beaſt-like skins may become a prey to the Vulgar ſort of People: And as the Company are incapable of this charge, of wetting ſacks, &c. ſo alſo eſpecially of fore-ſtalling the Market of VVood and Coals; and more eſpecially the Maſter, who although they pleaſe to nominate and charge, they know him not at all capable of any ſuch charge, he being of another Trade, and one of the VVardens a Car-man, and yet they pleaſe (with *Scoggin*) to ſtrike him that ſtands next.

Ob. Say they, *We do not charge this upon the Company, as a Company, but upon particular Members, who by reaſon they have Carts of their own, take this Liberty, and have the better opportunity to wet ſacks and to deceive the People in their meaſures, which if they had not Car-rooms, they could not do.*

Anſw. Here I muſt needs tell the Parſon he went beſide his Text, and had not his memory been bad to forget the point, he would never have thus miſ-applyed it.

For,

Firſt, They all know the conteſt is with the Corporation about their power and Juriſdiction, not with particular men; and if ſome particular men ſhould be found faulty, this is not at all to the

the matter, and they are liable to the laſh of the Common Law, and that Law of the City which provides againſt all Fore-ſtallers and deceitfull meaſures.

Secondly, His inference is exceedingly unſound: what? becauſe my meaſures are my own, muſt they needs be bad? Muſt a Lawyer needs play the knave, becauſe he borrows not his Books, but hath them in his Study? Muſt a Brewer needs carry Barrels leſſe then gaug'd, becauſe his own Drayes carry them out? Muſt all Tradeſ-men in London that keeps weights and meaſures of their own of neceſſity be diſhoneſt? what kind of Logick is this? or what kind of Creatures count ye VVood-mongers, that they muſt ſell goods, but other men muſt keep meaſures for them? is there Law or preſident for this? or are thoſe Car-men or *Com*plainants ſuch innocent ones that if they find ſacks they'l be undoubtedly more honeſt then others: I ſhall attribute this to his ſlender acquaintance, either of the men of that generation, or the ſmal experience he hath of the Trade of a VVood-monger. But to let that paſſe. Concerning wetting of Sacks.

Thirdly, I farther ſay, that all ſea-coal ſacks either are or ought to be ſuch as will hold their meaſure wet and dry, new and old, and that no Meter ought to work a ſack till firſt ſufficiently ſhrunk, even the *City* ſacks themſelves; and that although ſacks in Summer time when the weather is hot are and may be uſually ſprinkled with water, yet after once ſhrunk it no way leſſens them; the *Com*plainants well know there are other reaſons for it, *viz.* the heat of the Sun being ſuch, together with the reflection of the *Coals*, when dry, that ſhould they not now and then wet them, they would be burnt and ſpoil'd before half worn; neither are the ſacks ſo lythe and plyable to a mans back that carries them, when bone dry, as when a little moiſtned; and whereas they charge this upon the VVood-monger, if it were a fault the *Car*-men were moſt guilty of it of any man, for he for his own eaſe and conveniency, as well as for the preſerving the ſacks, wets them. I never ſaw a VVood-monger wet a ſack in my life, although if I had I had no reaſon to condemne him, the premiſes conſidered.

Ob. *But how comes it then to paſſe, or whats the reaſon ſo many Wood-mongers ſacks are found ſhort of meaſure, let them be*

Wet

wet or dry, if men had their meaſure it were no matter.

Anſw. This indeed is the grand buſineſſe, and above all to be ſpoke to, therefore be pleaſed to know.

Firſt, That a ſack is an uncertain, not a juſt meaſure, let it be of what ſize ſoever: and its the greateſt unhappineſſe to the Wood-monger that can be, that they cannot have a juſt meaſure appointed them; for hereby men ignorant and ſcandalouſly diſpoſed, do not a little eclipſe the repute of the moſt innocent; for let a man be never ſo conſcientious, yet either through the dryneſs or wetneſs of the ſacks or goods, the ſtretching or ſhrinking of the cloth, the holding up too hard or too ſlack, the partiallity of ſome meaſurers abroad; there will be, and is dayly carried too much or too little, and this inavoidable. So that all that can be ſaid, is,

Firſt, That he that carries or keeps ſacks that will not hold their meaſure, he hath an intent to deceive, and he ought to be dealt withal accordingly.

Secondly, that foraſmuch as there can be no certainty in ſuch meaſures, its not wiſdom in any Wood-monger or other, either buyer or ſeller, to account to receive in ſix of them a juſt half Chalder, or in twelve of them a juſt Chalder, but for that there will be more or leſs, if ſhort, the Wood-monger ought to abate accordingly, if over, the buyer to pay proportionable; and that no man ſhould look on that as an intended deceit, which is not in the Wood-mongers power to reform, nay and he as much prejudiced as any man, for how oft ſoever he carries over-meaſure, he hears not of that, but once want of meaſure occaſions much noiſe. And although (amongſt others) I muſt bear part of the reproach, till people are better informed, yet I dare boldly ſay, no man in the Trade whatſoever (one time with another conſidered) carries better meaſure than my ſelf, although ſome of the Complainants endeavor to render me otherwiſe. But for the better ſatisfaction of all men concerning the reality of the Wood-mongers intents of reforming any abuſe of this nature, I have here alſo ſet down a true Copy of their Petition and Remonſtrance to the Lord Mayor, Court of Aldermen, and Common Councel of London; with divers expedients offered to their conſideration.

To the Right Honorable, the Lord Mayor, the Court of Aldermen, and Common Councel of the City of LONDON.

The humble Petition and Remonſtrance of the Company of Wood-mongers of the ſaid City of London.

Humbly ſheweth,

THat whereas your Petitioners being for the moſt part Traders in Wood and Coals, the onely fewel of this City: Out of that deep ſenſe they have of that general prejudice received againſt them in relation to their meaſures, although as cauſleſs as inavoidable, as alſo out of their earneſt deſire not only to beget a right underſtanding, but alſo by your Aſſiſtance and Authority to endeavor a regulation (if poſſible) of whatſoever is either really or ſeemingly prejudicial to this honorable City, in whoſe right we have ſo deep an Intereſt; preſuming that as that general prejudice received againſt us and our meaſures, and ſo conſequently, that ſcandal which by means thereof reſteth upon the whole Trade, as it proceedeth through the ignorance of moſt men, ſo from the malice of others, who being averſe to government, have ſet themſelves to endeavor the overthrow of that power under which God hath planted them; and as we ſhall be far from owning in the leaſt any perſon or practiſe unjuſt or fraudulent, but rather endeavor their exemplary puniſhment, ſo we doubt not but this honorable Court will be as far from abetting or countenancing men of ſuch turbulent and unſound Principles. Now for that for want of a right information concerning meaſures of Sea-coal, the innocent are often rendred as ominous as the guilty, We make bold humbly to certifie, that the moſt upright and conſcientious man in the whole Trade, doth and ſhall ſuffer in his repute, till ſome courſe be taken to regulate the meaſures; which although a work of great difficulty, yet is the earneſt deſire of your Petitioners; or that a right underſtanding of theſe in preſent uſe might be obtained; and that principally, by reaſon Sacks (the onely meaſure from us

capable

capable of carriage upon mens backs) are so uncertain, that either too much or too little will of necessity be ordinarily carried, although the intent of the seller be never so just; by stretching, shrinking, holding up to hard or to slack, sometimes by the dryness or wetness of the goods or weather, that the most judicious and most accustomed Meters of Coals by Sacks, shall put sometime a peck too much, sometime a peck too little in a Sack, presuming there is as often over as under measure; but that in such cases the buyer is ordinarily silent, whereas a just weight, ballance, or measure, hath equal respect as well to Seller as Buyer.

Therefore (that it may appear to the whole World our earnest desires are to reform or regulate any thing amiss of this nature in our power) we make our humble application to this honorable Court, and make bold likewise to offer the particulars annexed to your grave considerations, that if possible, some expedient may be found out, and confirmed by your Authority, that may conduce to the right of all buyers, as also procure the quiet and repute of your Petitioners, whose desires are, That Equity and Justice may run down the Streets of this Famous City as a pleasant stream, and that Truth, Peace, and Prosperity may dwell within her Gates; which is, and ever shall be the dayly Prayers of

Your humble Petitioners, *&c.*

The several Expedients offered to the Consideration of this Honorable Court, as followeth, viz.

FIrst, we humbly desire (if possible) such a certain measure may be devised and ordered out to us, as will neither stretch, nor shrink, fit also to be carried on mens backs, into mens Cellars or VVare-houses, &c. but conceiving this impossible.

Secondly, VVe humbly offer, that whereas it hath bin formerly thought fit, and ordered that every Car-man carrying Sea-coal should carry a sealed Bushel in his cart, that so the buyer at his pleasure might see his measure; we humbly conceive this to

be very inconvenient and prejudicial, for theſe reaſons enſuing.

1. Its very hard to get ſo many buſhels as conſtantly muſt be in this; beſides the vaſt ſpoil and loſs of them after once had.

2. The extreme loſs of time in our horſes and ſervants, by which means we ſhall not only be diſ-inabled to obtain a lively-hood our ſelves, but ſhall alſo beat off all the Town-carts from helping us in greateſt haſt, by which means the ſtore of the City will be obſtructed.

3. It muſt needs be a grand occaſion of tumults in the ſtreets.

4. The unskilfulneſs of the buyer, and partiality in his own cauſe, may produce a want of meaſure where none is.

5. Hereby we ſhall be rendred in worſe capacity then any Tradeſmen in the City of what kind ſoever, whoſe ſhops are the proper place, not onely of the price, but meaſure of their ware.

6. Sixtly, If meaſured in the ſtreets, or at the buyers houſe, we cannot expect that ſatisfaction for over-meaſure, as the buyer will have in caſe of falling ſhort, but he having our monies in his hand, will uſe us at his pleaſure, or elſe beget abundance of needleſs ſuits.

Thirdly, Although we have had likewiſe thoughts of having a ſworn Meter, and ſo conſequently the City ſacks to be appointed to every VVharf, as well out of Lighters as Ships; yet we cannot conceive this expedient, by reaſon

1. This begets a ſecond charge of metidge, and ſo conſequently an increaſe of prices of the fewel.

2. For that this will not reform any thing at all, the Meters ſacks being as uncertain a meaſure as any other, *and as they carry ſomtimes as good meaſure as any, ſo alſo ſomtime as bad as any we know; by reaſon not onely of the ſtraining and ſhrinking of the ſacks, drineſs and wetneſs of the goods, but the unevenneſs of merchants not accuſtomed to ſuch meaſures.*

3. By reaſon of that palpable miſtake in one of your Acts of Common Councel about the ſize of ſacks, which if it were obſerved, we muſt be compelled to carry a fourth part of Coals more then we receive; for whereas a ſack ought to contain but three buſhels, we preſume that a ſack of an Ell in length, and three quarters of a yard broad when its ſhrunk, will hold four buſhels.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, Although we have likewiſe thought of meaſuring all Coals at each VVharf by a ſealed buſhel before they go out, being very willing to take any courſe tending to publike equity, as well as our own vindication; yet this we ſee an impoſſibility of, for that we ſhall not then be able to ſerve half the City, the time ſpent about meaſuring being ſuch, as muſt needs caſt the poorer ſort of people into the fag end of the yeer for their proviſions, which are leaſt able to bear that advance of price which ordinarily then falls out.

Fiftly, we humbly offer this laſt, as moſt ſutable to publike ſatisfaction, ſo the moſt convenient and attainable of any other, *viz.* That the whole Trade may be compelled to carry one ſort or ſize of ſacks ſufficient to hold their meaſure wet and dry, new and old; to which purpoſe as the Company of VVood-mongers have formerly, and at preſent are impowred and entruſted to regulate the meaſures of all men trading in Wood or Coals; and accordingly have from time to time uſed much diligence to find out any man offending herein, puniſhing all ſuch they find faulty, ſo that now alſo all ſacks may be brought to their Hall before wrought by any, to the end that by the ſaid Maſter, Wardens, and Aſſiſtants of the ſaid Company, they may receive the approbation, brand, ſtamp, or Hall-mark; and if any Wharffinger or other ſhall preſume to carry any other Sacks then ſuch ſo approved, branded, or ſtampt, that then it ſhall and may be lawful for the Maſter, and Wardens, with ſuch number of their Aſſiſtants and Officers as they ſhall think fit, to ſeiſe all ſuch Sacks and Coals, and them to diſpoſe of to the uſe of the poor of the ſaid Company, and further to inflict according to demerit. And for the preventing of any injury to the buyer, we humbly offer and deſire it may be ſo ordered, that if any remain unſatisfied, he may at his pleaſure by himſelf or ſervant, repair to any of our Wharfs, there to ſee at any time the ſaid ſacks meaſured by a lawful ſealed meaſure or buſhel, which every Wood-monger or Wharffinger dealing in Coals ſhall be enjoyned alwaies to have in readineſs for that purpoſe, it being the moſt proper place for meaſuring, every mans wharf being as his ſhop; Otherwiſe we ſhall be rendred (as aforeſaid) in a worſe condition then any Tradeſman whatſoever, which we humbly conceive is far from the intent of this honorable Court.

Laſtly,

Laſtly, As we humbly offer the premiſes to your grave Conſiderations, ſo we humbly deſire this honorable Court will pleaſe to appoint ſome of their worthy members as a Committee, to whom we may apply, and with whom we may adviſe; that either in theſe, or any other waies attainable, we may be enabled to declare our ſelves ready in all juſt waies to ſerve you, *&c.*

Marchant *Hobbs.*

And as for that great charge of fore-ſtalling the Market, I beleeve it will be very hard for the complainants to prove of any man going 50. or 60. miles to ſuch a purpoſe; and know no man guilty, except one of the Complainants, who indeed was imployed as a Factor to buy, and did go about an hundred mile to contract with the Maſters for their Coals at great rates: And would I recriminate, I could tell you, and that truly, that he is the moſt notorious for bad meaſures of any man in the Trade; not only endeavouring to have ſuch ſacks made, as whereof the Sack-maker was aſhamed, and refuſed to make, but his very wooden meaſures which are neither capable of ſtraining or ſtretching, taken away and defaced by the Company in their ſearch; which argues an intention to deceive: as on the contrary where ſacks are ſufficient, there can be no ſuch purpoſe. But this I ſhould have let paſſe, as the reſt, but that its ſtrange to me to hear the Owl ſhreek ſo loud againſt the wideneſſe of the Wrens throat.

As for going into the Country to buy Wood, I beleeve its as beneficial abuſes to the City as any thing the Wood-mongers can do; for by this means much fuel is brought to the City, that would go to other markets; eſpecially for thoſe that buy wood by the Acre, and cut and bind it and bring it up to this market: which if ſuch were not, Wood would be at a deerer rate than ordinarily it is, eſpecially in theſe times wherein Coals bear ſuch rates, as for exceſſive prices and unreaſonable gain, got by the Woodmonger. Certainly the complainants had uſed the word *unreaſonable* ſo often, that they had loſt their own Reaſon; *Unreaſonable gain, Unreaſonable profit, Unreaſonable priſes; Exceeding oppreſſion, Exceeding inhanſing*, and all with a wind: when indeed I dare appeal to the whole Citie; and let them call

one

one Trade after another, and if there be any that ſell for leſſe price then the Wood-monger, conſidering what he buyes at, Ile give over being a Wood-monger, and ſuffer that man to take my unreaſonable gainfull trade. And if the Complainants will but ſecure the whole Trade of 12. d. in the pound, cleer profit throughout the year, Ile procure them 500. l. toward the purchaſe of Land, when their Charter is finiſhed, that they become not ſo oppreſſive one to another, as they deſire to be.

Having thus anatomized the body of this hideous *Hydra*, and razed the foundation of that infamous Fabrick, give me leave to catch the Serpent by the very tail, and to take a little view of the top-ſtone, *viz.* their deſires: the ſum whereof is,

First, *To be divided from the Wood-mongers.* and

Secondly, *To have a Charter impowering them to lay Taxes one upon another to buy Land, &c.*

Although it concerns me not ſo much to look to their intentions here, as to vindicate the Company, yet I cannot but wonder that they that were juſt now complaining of oppreſſion and undoing by the Wood-mongers, for laying xx ſhillings upon each of them, for Parliamentary occaſions, ſhould now make their own finger heavier then the Wood-mongers loyns: they would have an Arbitrary power granted to levy ſuch ſummes of money one upon another as ſhall be by them thought needfull: and what-ever they pretend, this muſt fall alſo upon the poorer ſort of Car-men, who by courſe will neither be Maſter, VVardens, nor Aſſiſtants; and this not to pay publike debts, but to buy Land: who now is the oppreſſor?

Secondly, For being divided, let them pay the proportion of debts contracted for the State while they have continued with us, and rob us of no Right belonging to the Company, in point of power or priviledges in the diſpoſal of the Car-rooms, or otherwiſe, and give good ſecurity never again to return, proviſion be made Marchants and others may not be abuſed in their carriages: and I doubt not but the Company will as willingly ſhake hands with them, as they deſire. For albeit the great Anvil on which they would forge the materials of this their Babel, is pretended of publick good: yet the premiſes conſidered proves no better then a Popes Bull, beginning indeed with *Nomine Domine:*

mine, to which properly may be added *incipit omnium malum*: for although they pretend Publique good, I know nothing of a more prejudicial extent to the Publike, then this.

Now the reaſons why Coals are deerer then in former times are many, viz.

The Exciſe of 4 s. per Chalder, amounts to a vaſt ſum of money.

The great hazard and adventure of the Sea, not only in relation to weather or caſualty, but from the enemy, inſomuch that for want of ſufficient Convoys, the loſs of Shipping that way (although Coals are at a deer rate) is more then all the reſt that eſcape have cleered.

Extraordinary price of Victual and of wages, now more then in former time.

The taking ſo many Men and Ships out of that Trade for the ſervice of the State, by which means there hath not come ſo many to Market by at leaſt 1500 Chalder of Coals this yeer.

The raiſing of the price at New-Caſtle 1 s. per Chalder more then ever heretofore.

A new increaſe of the charge in delivery of their Ballaſt at New-Caſtle, amounting to no ſmall matter.

Taking away their gift Coals, for whereas formerly they were uſed to have four, five, nay eight Chalder in the ſcore gift Coals, now they hardly have what they pay for, which raiſeth the price exceedingly, that before theſe times a maſter would have got more at 16, or 17. s. per Chalder, then now at 26 s. a Chalder.

So many Ingroſſers of Coals ſuffered contrary to the known Laws of this Common-wealth; I preſume private men have laid up more Coals this year for a dearth, then all the Woodmongers in London have to drive their Trade.

Expedi

Expedients to abate the price of Sea-coal.

Firſt, Let the Market place be aſſertained; for its now a great diſpute whether the right place of buying be at Billingſ-gate or in the Poole; by which means many take advantage to buy in the Poole, while others expecting the market at Billingſgate are diſappointed.

Secondly, Let a conſtant hour be ſet what time the Maſter may ſell, and not before: as not before 5 a clock in the morning, in the Summer, from *May* day, till *Auguſt*: and from thence till *May* 7, at the ſooneſt, or in the dead of Winter 8; and this to be known by the ringing of a Bell, there being one ready for that purpoſe.

Thirdly, Let all private men not driving a conſtant Trade in Wood and Coals, be prohibited buying more then for their own neceſſary uſe: for by means of many ingroſſers this yeer, priſes are much raiſed. I dare preſume particular men have laid up more coals to keep up for an advantage, then all the Wood-mongers in London have to drive their Trade.

Fourthly, Let there be ſufficient Convoyes at Sea to protect the Coal-ships, who for want hereof run great hazard, and receive much loſſe.

Fifthly, Let every Maſter of a Ship uſing that Trade, once every year let the City have a proportion of his Coals for the uſe of the Poor, as they coſt him, and that as neer as can be at the cheapeſt time: *viz.* every Ship making out 200 Chaldern, one ſcore: each making out 100 Chaldern, half a ſcore; and ſo according

to proportion, making out more or leſſe: And that every Wood-monger according to his Trade may likewiſe lay in for the uſe of the Poor, once every year a ſcore or half a ſcore of Coals as they coſt him, without a penny profit, and this alſo at the cheapeſt time of the year.

Sixtly, That ſome other courſe might be taken then the Exciſe of Coals, to pay the Souldiers of the Northern Gariſons; either out of the monethly Aſſeſment for the Army, or otherwaies, for that this is one main cauſe why coals are ſo deer.

Seventhly, Deny not the Wood-mongers their Native Right, and that both the Common Law of this Nation, and the cuſtom of the City allows, *viz.* the carrying out his own goods, or other, coming to his Wharf: for I preſume, were it not for imploying their own Horſes and Servants, where they often ſell for very ſmall (ſometime for no) profit, they wonld have a more conſiderable price then now they ordinarily ſell for.

Theſe things I thought good humbly to offer, that in theſe hard times wherein Trading is ſo dead, Victual and Fuel ſo deer, ſome releef might be to the poorer ſort, whoſe mouths are as apt, and do as dayly cry out upon the Parliament of oppreſſion, &c. as the Complainants in the caſe before you upon the Wood-mongers: and although no great heed is to be taken what the ruder ſort of people ſay, yet happy is it when cauſleſſe.

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F I N I S.